

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 14, and 16-19 have been amended. Further, claims 20-23 are newly added to the application. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

The title has been changed to agree with the English translation of the foreign priority application and the Declaration both submitted June 28, 2004.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-4, 7, 9-11, and 14-15 have been rejected over De. This rejection is believed overcome in view of the amendment of claims 1 and 10 together with the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite that the work carrier comprise a porous material including a plurality of porous, at least a portion of which are interconnected. The applicants respectfully assert that De does not suggest or disclose a work carrier having the claimed porous structure nor a method of processing a work piece using a work carrier having the claimed porous structure.

De discloses a carrier (406) that has a uniformly spaced array of through-holes. The work carrier disclosed by De does not include an interconnected porous structure. In contrast to the carrier disclosed by De, the applicants carrier includes a multiplicity of porous, including adjacent porous that are interconnected in the interior of the work carrier (10) to form a multiplicity of pore passages (24) and (26). (See Fig. 2, page 6, para. 0032 of the applicants' specification). In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, the work carrier enables the transport of solvent through the porous work carrier. (See page 3, para. 0016 of the applicants' specification).

Claims 2-4, 7, 9 and 14-15 are believed allowable in view of the amendment remarks pertaining to claim 1 from which they directly or indirectly depend.

Claim 11 is believed allowable in view of the amendments and remarks pertaining to claim 10 from which it depends.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 5 has been rejected over De. This rejection is believed overcome in view of the amendment of claim 1 together with the applicants previous remarks, which are incorporated by reference herein.

Claims 12-13 have been rejected over De in view of Buchwalter et al. This rejection is believed overcome in view of the amendment of claim 1 together with the following remarks.

The applicants foregoing remarks with respect to De are incorporated by reference herein. The applicants respectfully assert that the additional of Buchwalter et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of De. Although Buchwalter et al. disclose a porous transfer plate (404), the transfer plate of Buchwalter et al. does not have a plurality of interconnected pores. Instead, the transfer plate has a plurality of holes (408) that are arranged in predetermined locations corresponding to the chiplets (202). Further, the chiplets are removed from the porous transfer plate (404) by the use of a selected transfer plate (406). Accordingly, the porous transfer plate (404) of Buchwalter et al. functionally differs from the claimed work carrier and processing method.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 16-19 have been rejected for containing broad and narrow range limitations within the same claim. This rejection is overcome in view of the amendment of claims 16-19. In particular, claim 16 has been amended to delete the recitation of "between 50 μm and 100 μm ." Claim 19 has been amended to delete "or between 20% and 50%." Claim 18 has been amended to delete "or at least 20%." Claim 19 has been rejected for use of product designations (P65) and (P55). This rejection is believed overcome in view of the replacement of the trade identification with the related standards designations, as set forth by the applicants on page 4, para. 0018 of their specification.

Claim Objections

Claims 6 and 8 have been objected to for including improper multiple dependencies. This rejection is overcome in view of the amendment of claim 6 in which

the dependency of claim 6 is now directed to claim 1. Further, claim 8 has similarly been amended to direct its dependency to claim 1.

In addition to the amendments described above, claims 3, 5, 9, 11, and 14 have been amended to improve their form.

New Claims

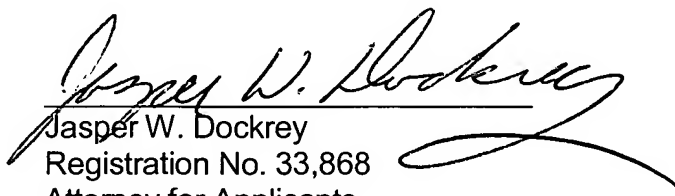
Claims 20-23 have been added in an order that the applicants can more fully claim the subject matter of their invention. In particular, claims 20 and 21 recite subject matter deleted from claims 16 and 17, respectively.

Claim 22 recites that the work carrier of claim 10 include a plurality of pores comprising a branch pore network within the work carrier. Further, claim 23 recites that the pore passages comprise at least 10% of the pore volume and further recites that the pore passages traverse the work carrier from a top side to a rear side of the work carrier. The applicants respectfully assert that claims 20-23 recite further patentable aspects of the applicants claimed work carrier.

The applicants have carefully examine the additionally cited references and found them not to be relevant to the applicants pending claims.

The applicants have made a novel and non-obvious contribution to the art of work carrier design and processing method. The claims at issue are believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is now earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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